



# Social Inclusion, Poverty Eradication & Post-2015 Development Agenda

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# Structure of Presentation

- Concept of social inclusion
- **Historical overview: from WSSD to post-2015 agenda**
- **Review of progress and challenges: country experiences**
  - Universal social protection
  - Meaningful participation
  - Social and solidarity economy
- **Concluding remarks**

# Social Inclusion

- *“A society for all”, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play (UN, 1995).*
- Goal, process and outcome.
- Mistreated as expanded version of ‘economic’ inclusion and reduced to marginalization of certain groups.
- Exclusion is multifaceted.
- Poverty reduction doesn’t automatically lead to social inclusion (e.g. China and India)

# From WSSD to Post-2015 Agenda

- First Decade for Poverty Eradication: inclusive scope and comprehensive approach to poverty
- WSSD: social integration, poverty eradication and full employment - key objectives of development
- MDGs: inclusivity largely neglected
- Second Decade for Poverty Eradication: need to overcome poverty in its multiple dimensions and address social exclusion
- Post-2015 agenda: commitment to comprehensive institutional framework for sustainable development
- OWG proposal on SDGs: promotion of inclusion (SDG4 on education, SDG8 on economic growth with employment, SDG9 on industrialization, SDG10 on inequalities, SDG11 human settlements, SDG16 on inclusive societies).

# Review of Progress

- Economic growth of developing countries as a group has substantially improved (real GDP growth increased from 4.7% in 1991–2002 to 7% in 2003–2007 and 5.3% in 2008–2012).
- Significant poverty reductions (people living \$1.25 a day fell from 47% in 1990 to 27% in 2005 and 22% in 2010).
- Spread of democracy, wider recognition of the need to respect rights, diversity, concerns of social groups, and expanded economic and educational opportunities

# Review of Challenges

- Multiple crises, uncertainty and instability
  - Rising inequalities
  - Unemployment and continued casualization of labour
  - Demographic shifts and population ageing
  - Increased migration flows
  - Rise of environmental disasters and conflicts
  - Increase of absolute number of poor people (e.g. sub-Saharan Africa the number of poor people rose from 289.7 million in 1990 to 413.8 million in 2010).
- Economic growth is not enough to eradicate poverty and achieve inclusive development.

# Social Inclusion Framework

- Renewed interest in social inclusion at ideational and policy level
- Incorporates simultaneous promotion of productivity, poverty reduction and greater inclusiveness
- Various programmes with social inclusion elements: Bolsa Familia programme (Brazil, 2003), Girinka programme (Rwanda, 2006), PSNP (Ethiopia, 2005)

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# Roadmap to Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development

- i. Universal social protection
- ii. Meaningful participation
- iii. Social and solidarity economy

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# Universal Social Protection

- Essential contributor to inclusive and sustainable development
- Shift from narrow approach to social protection to more comprehensive social policies
  - Universal Coverage Scheme in Thailand
  - **Inclusive Health System in Rwanda**
  - **Vivir Mejor Strategy in Mexico**

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# Meaningful Participation

- Involvement in various aspects of life by all members of society based on equality of rights and opportunities
- Giving disadvantaged individuals/groups a voice and strengthening their capacity
- Need to open space to diverse range of voices
  - Brazil and India: institutionalization of citizens' participation
  - Chile, Brazil: affirmative action policies
  - Indian state of Kerala: Kudumbashree programme
  - Mazowe District, Zimbabwe: farmer organizations

# Social and Solidarity Economy

- Production of goods and services by organizations that put social & environmental objectives before profit, involve cooperative relations & democratic management, espouse values of solidarity, thus promoting greater cohesion and inclusion.
- Legislated in France, Spain, Mexico, Quebec, with developments in Brazil, Italy and Cameroon.
- Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela: part of institutional framework
- Ecuador: **National Plan for Good Living (2013-2017)**

# Concluding Remarks

- Development will unlikely be sustainable unless it is inclusive.
- Post-2015 agenda should be an inclusive agenda, leaving no one behind and meeting needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations.
- Social policy – useful instrument to achieve inclusive and sustainable outcomes.